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## CONFERENCE OF COMMITTEES

Among the Workers in the Steel Centers of the Pittsburgh District.

BY G. H. PERRY.

The conditions of almost abject slavery under which the workers in the iron and steel industry, in the vicinity of Pittsburgh, work is something that the average reader will find it hard to believe without seeing. The writer has never worked in one of these huge maelfactories of modern industry owned by the gigantic steel corporation. He has never by actual experience had to undergo the nerve-racking, limb-destroying grind that these workers undergo, so he has no conception of the worst features of this modern slave hell.

He can but attempt to describe a few of the things that he has observed by coming in contact with the workers employed in these industries and what he has observed in passing these slaughter pens on his way to his own daily grind for a cockroach employer.

The men, who are mostly natives of Europe, have not only the lick-spittle foremen of the trust to combat with but also the indescribable coal and iron police who watch with cat-like vigilance every move made by the men. They also have to bear the taunts and slurs of misguided American slaves who have been brought up from the cradle on canned patriotism and taught to believe that they were of superior clay because their parents happened to choose this country for an abiding place. The only ambition of these Americans seems to be to live off the backs of the Slavics.

These slaves also have to live in daily fear of the town, county and city officials who, in utter disregard of law and order, prey upon them like vultures on a battlefield. Every man's hand seems to be turned against them. Spies in the shop, spies in the street, and even the so-called privacy of their homes is violated by this infernal spy system which exceeds that of Russia.

If two women have a quarrel over some trivial event that would be forgotten in a day or so, there is Mr. Sny, Johnny on the spot, with threats to bring both of them into court on a charge of disorderly conduct, unless they give him a bribe, of say \$5 or \$10. The women talk it over with their husbands, and they generally agree to accept these conditions, for, if they do not, they will be haled up before "the Honorable Magistrate" (?) and there given a semblance of a trial, after which a fine of \$20 or more will be imposed.

In McKees Rocks there are dozens of these human vultures, who thus prey upon the family life of these workers and thereby make a splendid living without work.

The homes of these workers are long rows of company shacks, in which are three or four box-like compartments called rooms, for which they are charged from \$14 to \$16 per month, and if they have an unmarried relative stopping with them they are charged \$1 extra for each of these relatives.

A yard is an uncommon thing. The streets are long, barren stretches of macadam or cobblestone, in which the children roll in refuse and dirt, for our magnificent city government is the only domesticating streets in the aristocratic section of the city to haul the garbage for the slaves' section.

Continual clouds of smoke and dust permeate the atmosphere, and life to the residents of the district is one long continuous nightmare. Under such ideal conditions as these, coupled with the vultures that spy upon their domestic affairs, life must indeed have a rosy hue. Does it look so to you?

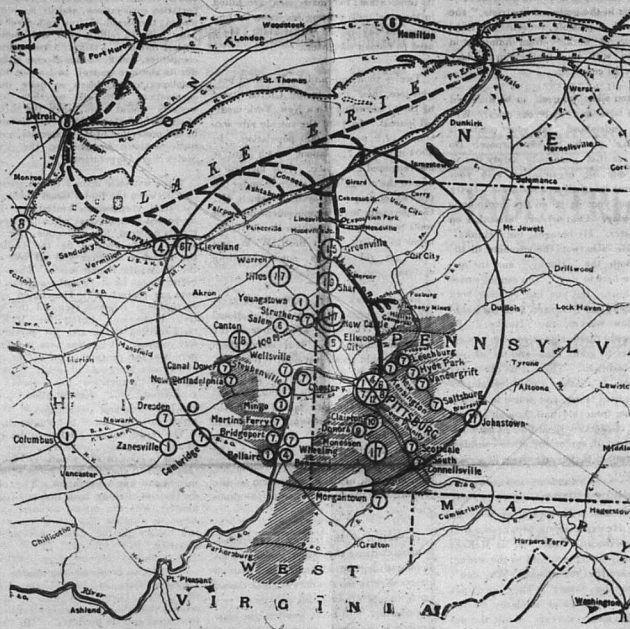
As to the conditions prevailing in the mills the writer can only tell of what limited observations he has made. The foremen are men who are picked because of their known ability to drive, and are, for the most part, brutalized and drunken with the power they have over a herd of slaves. The writer has been informed by slaves who have undergone the experience, that it is no uncommon thing for a foreman to manhandle a slave, who did not work with sufficient rapidity.

Men have been killed while at work and their fellow workers were not allowed to

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## Pittsburg District, the Steel Center of America

J. W. W.



### WHAT IS THE STEEL TRUST?

Read the Following Article and the Other Articles in This Issue of Solidarity, and You Will Get an Idea of the Monster.

Study the accompanying illustration carefully. It is a small section of a map published by the U. S. Steel Corporation in its Seventh Annual Report for the year ending December 31, 1908, and showing the locations of some of its properties.

The original map names 13 subsidiary companies that compose the manufacturing group of the steel trust, with plants extending from Worcester, Mass., on the east to Cherrvale, Kansas on the west, and north and south from Milwaukee to Birmingham, Alabama. These companies are as follows:

- Subsidiary Companies**
1. Carnegie Steel Co.—13 plants.
  2. Illinois Steel Co.—4 plants.
  3. Indiana Steel Co.—Gary.
  4. National Tube Co.—2 plants.
  5. Shelby Steel Tube Co.—2 plants.
  6. American Steel & Wire Co.—14 plants.
  7. American Sheet & Tinplate Co.—20 plants. (Number increased since 1908.)
  8. American Bridge Co.—13 plants.
  9. Union Steel Co.—2 plants.
  10. Clairton Steel Co.—1 plant.
  11. Lorain Steel Co.—1 plant.
  12. Universal Portland Cement Co.—2 plants.
  13. Tennessee Coal, Iron & R. R. Co.—5 plants.

#### Railroads and Steamship Lines.

Bessemer & Lake Erie R. R.—From Pittsburgh to Erie, Pa., connecting with steamship lines at latter point and at Conneaut, Ohio.

Elgin, Joliet & Eastern R. R.—From Mackinac, Michigan to Joliet, Illinois, then to Chicago, Illinois, and on to Chicago and South Chicago and covering a goodly portion of the Illinois coal fields. This belt line connects with every railroad running into Chicago.

Duluth & Iron Range R. R.—From Duluth, Minn., to various points embracing the western two-thirds of the Mesabi Iron Ore Range.

Duluth, Mesabi & Northern R. R.—Connecting at Duluth with the eastern section of the Mesabi Range.

Birmingham Southern R. R.—Connecting the coal and iron fields with the plants in the Birmingham, Alabama district.

Pittsburg Steamship Company—From Buffalo to Duluth, making all connections on Lake Erie and branching to touch all points on Lake Michigan down to Gary. This steamship company connects with all other railroads besides those listed as properties of the U. S. Steel Corporation.

#### Coal, Coke and Gas Properties.

The shaded portion of the map shows the location of the coal, coke and gas properties of the steel trust in the Pittsburgh district. This section includes the now famous Irwin-Westmoreland district (on strike), as well as the other sections in Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Ohio that are working under contract with the United Mine Workers of America.

In addition to the Pittsburgh field the trust owns the Pocahontas coal field, half of which is in West Virginia and the rest in Virginia. It also owns considerable coal areas in southern Tennessee, the big field in the Birmingham district, and a goodly chunk of coal land in southern Illinois.

#### Iron Ore Ranges.

The original steel trust map shows that the great corporation has practically a monopoly of the iron ore of the country. These properties include the great Mesabi range in Minnesota; the Gogebic, Menominee and Marquette ranges in the upper peninsula of Michigan; the Iron Range, Baraboo range in southern Wisconsin; good sized ridges in Tennessee and Georgia; and the great iron ore fields of the Birmingham, Alabama district.

Recent discoveries of iron ore in Texas have been added to the properties of the corporation, and will result in the establishment of new manufacturing plants in that

section. Many additions, enlargements and new plants have been built, or acquired by the steel trust since this map was printed in 1908.

#### Report Incomplete.

This Seventh Annual Report of the U. S. Steel Corporation does not convey an adequate idea of the control over the metal industry exercised by this giant trust. It does not show, for example, how by controlling the raw materials for the manufacture of iron, steel and tin products, as well as the materials for the manufacture of machinery, the steel trust is enabled to subordinate and control all so-called independent manufacturing companies, and is also extending its dominion over metal and machinery plants such as the Westinghouse, the Jeffrey, the General Electric, the Standard and Pressed Steel Car, and other companies.

In short, the steel trust, by its logical development, is rapidly acquiring a monopolistic control of all elements that constitute the metal industry. From the iron ore in the Minnesota hills to the great warehouses where metal and machine products are distributed, the hand of the steel trust is everywhere seen.

As an example of how this control affects other and apparently unrelated industries, we need only mention the United Shoe Machinery company. By its practical monopoly of patents on shoe machinery, that company controls the shoe industry of the country. No shoe manufacturer can turn a finger without the consent of the United Shoe Machinery Company. Yet that company is generally understood to be but a subsidiary of the U. S. Steel Corporation, though not actually listed as such in the steel trust's publications.

Most of our readers, and especially those living in steel centers, are familiar with the "trade" agreements between the steel trust and other so-called "independent" concerns. Apart from the fact that these "independent" plants are in fact worse slave pens than those of the trust, the agreements between them and the steel trust are so few as to give away the whole snap of "competition." The trust's blacklist, extends to some of the largest "independent" companies. For instance, striking employees from the Siemens and Greer tin mills (trust) in New Castle, when applying for work in the tin mills of

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## MANIFESTO

Issued by the Pittsburgh District Council to the Workers of the Steel Mills.

To all Iron, Steel, Mach. Machinery, Tube and Pipe Mill Workers of Pittsburgh and Vicinity.

Fellow Workers:

We who toil under the same miserable conditions that the rest of you do, who suffer the same hardships and receive the same reward for our long hours of labor, are addressing this appeal to you with the hope that you will lend a willing ear to the same.

The workers' condition in this industry has reached a point where it is admitted by no less an authority than Charles F. Neil, U. S. Labor Commissioner, to be "simply shocking."

The average work day for the thousands employed in this industry is ten hours. Thousands of men work 12 hours, and when shifts are changed 24 hours at a stretch.

Wages are barely sufficient to keep us in trim, oiled up like machines, that we may continue grinding out profits for the few who own the mills we slave in.

Yearly thousands of our shop mates are either killed or rendered helpless for life by injury, all because of unprotected machinery. According to the latest reports of the U. S. Labor Bureau, the metal and machinery industry last year claimed a greater number of killed and injured than any other industry.

An end must be put to these miserable conditions under which the most slave and die, while the few coin millions out of our very blood and labor, and are able to live in luxury. The sooner this is done the better for all of us.

Shorter hours of labor, which will mean less toil and thus a longer and happier life.

Higher wages, that will mean more bread for us and for all those dear to us.

Protection for life and limb.

A general eight-hour day for all workers, that is what we must strive for with all the force of our common sense.

A minimum wage scale of \$2.50 a day for all unskilled workers now receiving less.

Abolition of all piece and job-work, the vicious system that drives alike a death pace.

Half day's rest on Saturday of each week.

Abolition of all Sunday work.

All these are the imperative needs of the day for all.

But to secure these desirable conditions we must do more than merely wish for them. We must have an organization organized to be wielded in our interest.

Without organization we will accomplish naught. But of course you will ask: "What kind of an organization shall it be?"

Due to the sad experience of the past, some of you have grown pessimistic and the future looks black for the workers.

Defeats and sometimes betrayals have discouraged many of you and you look upon all efforts to better the common lot of the workers as well nigh futile.

Why We Were Defeated.

In the past we lost because we had no organization, or if we did, it was a mere conglomeration of trade unions, led by self-seekers and adventurers who merely wanted to make a name for themselves at the cost of our very lives.

The old time trade unions never did and never could unite us. Led by "great labor leaders" and organized under the yellow flag of the American Federation of Labor they have made attempts at conducting the battles of labor, and have not only lost in all important contests, but what is worse have discouraged the thousands of metal workers throughout the nation.

The A. A., for years the most potent organization among the metal workers of the Pittsburgh district, to-day but a shadow of its former self—after a year's agonizing struggle its fight against the "open shop" order of the American Sheet and Tinplate Co., a subsidiary of the steel trust.

After a struggle of 15 months the workers went down in utter defeat before the gigantic corporation; defeated because the

(Continued on Page Four.)

# SOLIDARITY

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**INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD**  
General Headquarters—518 Cambridge Building, Chicago, Illinois.

**GENERAL OFFICERS:**  
Vincent St. John, General Sec'y-Treas.  
W. E. Trautmann, General Organizer

**GENERAL EXECUTIVE BOARD:**  
J. J. Ector, Chas. Seurlock, C. H. Axelson, Francis Miller, George Speed.

## AN APPEAL TO THE NATIVE.

We are addressing this appeal to the English-speaking or native-born workers of the Pittsburgh district. Though an American himself, the writer does not single you out because he looks upon you as superior in brain and spirit to those workers whom the accident of birth placed at the outset in other parts of the globe. Your present conduct does not justify any such "flattery" on our part.

You are singled out for this appeal because circumstances have made you Americans in particular victims of the devious tricks of the bosses, of the cunning though brutal corporations of this hell of capitalism.

Your fathers in the mills of the last generation were in constant revolt against their masters. They were organized in such unions as their conditions required at that time. They were for the most part skilled workers, and by organization could keep up wages and a comparatively high standard of living. Many and fierce were the battles they fought from the great railroad strike in 1877 to Homestead in 1892.

But all the while the great steel and mining corporations were gaining in power. Machine development was going away with the tools of the skilled worker and enlarging the mass of unskilled. The steel kings found an obstacle in their way in the native or English-speaking workers who were accustomed to a high standard of living and fought against being driven down to a low level. Accordingly these corporations sent their agents to the rural districts of Europe with glowing tales of the wonderful opportunities in the Pittsburgh district where farmers' sons, and the "pauper labor" of the old countries could earn from \$2 to \$5 per day. Immediately upon the arrival of the immigrants the bosses began to play upon the prejudices of the native workers against these "invaders," in order that the bosses might keep both divided and skin them all to a queen's taste. Thus came in turn, Scotch, Irish, Welsh, Germans, Hungarians, Scandinavians, Poles, Slavs, Italians, Greeks, Serbians, and lately Syrians and Turks. Each national-ity in turn has become the victim of the prejudices of those who preceded it, and all have had to face the prejudice of the native American.

This whole business of race prejudice has been immensely funny as well as profitable to the masters. But it has been disastrous to the workers of all nationalities. Attempts of any one set of workers to better their condition by organization or strikes have been blocked by the refusal of other nationalities to line up with the one strike for better conditions. Thus the

masters have used this race prejudice to help them beat down the wages and intensify the toil of all the workers in the mills and factories. The native union have assisted the process by ignoring the claims of the poor unskilled "Hunks" and clinging to the "sacred contract" between the boss and a few "killed" groups of workers.

Now the old unions have been practically put out of business. The steel corporation, hates the field to themselves and are planning to reap the full reward of their "industrial freedom." Now, more than ever, will the brutal master keep up the cry of race prejudice. He will, if possible, use the American more than ever to keep the "Hunky" from revolting. Last year at McKees Rocks and this year at Bethlehem we saw him do it. With cries of "patriotism," "the flag," "Hunky union," and other refugees of seconds in the guise of "patriots," the master will, if possible, prevent the English speaking workers from lining up in one union with their brothers in bondage from foreign countries.

Will you allow yourself to be deceived by these false and malicious cries? Will you not understand that your master is "stringing" you for his own purpose? Do you not see that your only safety lies in forming one big organization with your fellow workers of all nationalities? To try to take out your spite on the foreigner is child's play. Center your attention on your master. He brought the "Hunky" here. He also put the machine in the mill. Both the "Hunky" and the machine are here to stay. You cannot smash the machine. But you can conquer both the machine and its owner, with the aid of your fellow worker, the "Hunky." By uniting with the foreigner you can compel the master to grant each and all of you better conditions. There is no other way of escape. It's either the abject slavery of the present time, and worse in future, or freedom from this hell through one big union of all workers regardless of nationality, color, skill, age or any other consideration except that they are slaves of a common master.

Which shall it be? You carry the key to the situation. The foreigner looks up to you. He expects you to take the lead in this movement. Last year at McKees Rocks many foreigners said to the writer: "Where are the Americans? Why don't they join the union?" They could not understand this lack of solidarity on the part of the native worker. While the despised "Hunkies" were putting up a fight that won the admiration of the enemy and the State police, you were listening to the cries of "patriotism" and marching back to work under the "flag." Since then the Pressed Steel Car Corporation has used you repeatedly against these same brave strikers at McKees Rocks.

Get next to the fact that your "patriotic" master cares nothing for either you or the foreigner except to skip you both in the limit. Don't be fooled with the cry of a "Hunky union." Drop your silly race prejudice. Join the I. W. W. and put an end to the hellish conditions that are crushing you and will destroy your children who come after.

**MAKE SOLIDARITY KNOWN.**  
To secure a circulation for SOLIDARITY, it is necessary first that it become well known. The working class must know of its existence and get acquainted with it. To this end, SOLIDARITY should be ordered in bundles and sold at every labor and street corner meeting, no matter how large or small it may be. This method is pursued by the New York local, with good results. On Oct. 1, for instance, over 500 copies of SOLIDARITY were sold at the Union Square ratification meeting of the Socialist Party. The amount raised from the sales more than paid for the bundle ordered. SOLIDARITY received considerable advertising without any financial expense on the part of the locals. During October a large number of big meetings will take place in the leading cities of the country. SOLIDARITY should be on sale at all of them.

**THE COMMENTATOR.**  
**NOTICE, PITTSBURGH DISTRICT.**  
Organized July 1, 1910 of the I. W. W. District Office, is available for speaking dates at present on any day of the week except Tuesday, within a radius of one hundred miles from Pittsburgh. Terms on application. Organizers wishing to aid in the propaganda of industrial unionism, and who want a clear and vigorous exposition of the principles of the I. W. W., should write to Fellow Worker Ector. His address is 343 Oliver Street, McKees Rocks, Pa.

## BY WAY OF COMMENT

Some things are happening in Berlin that we were once told could only happen in this country, but never in Germany. There, as here, striking workmen are being brutally assaulted by the police. He who runs may read that Germany is entering on a new era in which old parties are relegated to the rear. That era was passed in this country over a decade ago.

Carnegie is pained when he thinks of war. "War," he says, in a recent interview, "is the earth's greatest disgrace." As capital has become international and war involves its destruction, Carnegie's pain is not without reason, he being one of the foremost of the international capitalists. Carnegie doesn't think war an earthly disgrace because of the loss of life attending its prosecution; too many men are killed in the steel mills bearing his name for him to possess any qualms of that kind. He is used to human slaughter.

Twelve thousand and five hundred persons took their lives in the United States in 1906, according to a New York medical journal. In 1890 the suicide rate was about 12.5 per 100,000 population. In 1904 it was 27.7; at about which point it has remained ever since. This increase is due to the struggle for existence under the present capitalist system, which Mr. Gompers says his labor movement does not want to overturn; and which the I. W. W. is out to abolish. Join the I. W. W. and help get rid of this suicide-breeding system.

In New York City 10,000 bricklayers are locked out, as a result of jurisdictional squabbles. The latter are a curse to the labor movement. But it is not of them that we would speak just now. We want, instead, to call attention to the growing use of the lockout among employers. All over the world they are taking this method to quell labor uprisings, especially in England and Germany. The result can only be disastrous to themselves, as the lockout will force retaliative industrial action, and end in the expropriation of the capitalists as the final solution of the problem.

The action of the railway brotherhoods in memorializing the various executive, judicial and legislative bodies in behalf of increased rates for the railways has caused much disappointment and chagrin in certain quarters. In these quarters the class struggle is preached and the craft work of unionism, with its theory of mutual interests, is upheld, to the detriment of the industrial form of unionism, exemplified by the I. W. W., with its theory of conflicting interests. The railway brotherhoods are now fighting.

Believing that the interests of employer and employe are mutual, they consistently seek by means of political agencies that perpetrate that theory to promote them to the disadvantage of the "public." To expect them to engage in revolutionary political action is to expect thistles to produce figs, and to indulge in vain regrets, the results of vain delusions. This is needed to avoid too frequent repetition of the lamentable spectacle of a labor organization aiding its oppressors, is more consistency and less expediency in the spread of principles. Until this occurs, we may expect to continue to behold labor assisting in its own betrayal and enslavement, through false theories and tactics.

**THE COMMENTATOR.**  
**CARTOON LIST.**  
We regret to announce that the drawing for our cartoon this week was lost in the mail in transmission between New Castle and Youngstown, Ohio (18 miles) and up to the hour of going to press had failed to arrive from the engraving company.

**REBELS WANTED IN HONOLULU.**  
Honolulu, I. H., Sept. 11.  
Solidarity!  
Will you please publish a call in the paper for all rebels who can't wait to stop off and pay a visit, as we are in need of rebels to help us carry on organizing. The place here is rotten ripe for organization, and it is a shame to let these stumps slip past us. There are sixty or seventy thousand Japanese who belong in the Agricultural Department of the I. W. W., and are not there for lack of rebels to help organize.

Yours for a fight,  
A. G. ARMSTRONG.  
Honolulu, I. H.

Subscribe for *Solidarity* and push its circulation. Do it now

## CORPORATIONS IN POWER

### A Survey of the Situation in the Great Steel Industry.

By W. E. TRAUTMANN.  
It is a fallacious idea that the United States Steel Corporation is as yet omnipotent in the world of the iron and steel industry. In the conquest for markets there are formidable competitors, here and abroad. While it is true that in the warfare on labor all of them have a "gentleman's" agreement while it is proven that "independent" will fill orders of the trust when the latter is engaged in a conflict with labor, yet the monopoly is not as yet complete so far as competition for orders is concerned.

The Bethlehem Steel corporation, with its own mills its own railroads, its 6000 mines, the Jones & Laughlin Iron and Steel corporation, with its enormous plants in Pittsburgh and Aliquippa, its dozens of mines, its interest in traction and transportation corporations, and its 35,000 employees; the Republic Iron and Steel Company, with 12 rolling mills and factories, 5 blast furnaces, 4 mines, 5 transportation companies, and five other diverse mills under its absolute control, and about 40,000 employees; and a dozen or more smaller corporations with all together 20,000 workers are at times, when the interests of their chief stockholders so demand it, in the protection of their interests, antagonistic to those pursued by the United States Steel Corporation.

There was once upon a time a co-operation between the trades union leaders and the steel corporations' interests. There were passed through days when the steel industry suffered for protection, for high tariffs. Aided assisted by the Garlands, the Theodore Shaffers and all officials of the A. A. the slogan was: "There'll be better wages for the workers if the markets are protected." Henchmen of the corporations' interests stamped the counter. Protection, during the McKinley tariff revision days, and his presidency was secured. Protection was needed to permit of the consummation of the plans of Pierpont Morgan and other trust promoters. Competition from abroad was eliminated, the concentration process was hastened, and competition in the interior markets reduced to a minimum.

The trades unions, hitched to the wagon of the steel trust promoters, were permitted to exist in protection, as long as they allowed themselves to be used in the interests of the corporation. The cause for their unbecoming from the cart of the masters, with the ultimate annihilation, is another interesting chapter in the history of the labor movement of America.

In 1915, so prophesies the trust in "Had I Known Gary in 1908," the United States Steel Corporation will be able to control absolutely the market conditions in iron, steel and pig products. "In 1915," so they say, "the plants of Gary will be able to turn out all the steel, ingots, billets, rails, tinplate, etc., needed in the United States." All other mills may eventually be shut down, but Gary plants will be in operation, and be able to supply the market.

This is a prediction. But how correctly the mouthpiece of the trust can estimate the conditions of the future, who knows. It has been shown in the past, and every thing tends to materialize whatever the corporations' desires and plans out. It will be Gary, Ind., and Gary, Ala., two places wherefrom the industrial concentration of this country may be determined in the not far distant future.

And what of the workmen? Perhaps in 1915 we will see about 300,000 of them massed together in Gary and surrounding towns in Lake county, Indiana. What kind of workers? As one Serbian from Montenegro said a few moments ago: "Such are the conditions in the mills that only the elements most retarded in their intellectual development, but giant-strong physically, can be induced to work in the slaughter houses of the corporation. Life is a cheap article in the mills, as little respected as life is in the mountains of Montenegro, of Serbia, and neighboring countries, where the curse of centuries has kept the people in ignorance and divided them up in feuds and fratricidal wars. They are used to it; why should they object to the trust killing them, one after another? Even though the labor movement in those countries has made rapid strides, the message of industrial solidarity of the exploited has not reached the small peasants from these mountainous districts, the elements from which the steel trust recruits its new material for slaughter and daily exchange in the market."  
But the fury of the system is bound to work also on the mind of these workers when they taste the savagery of the industrial slavery in this country. Brutal force, when one's dream is for redress, is the weapon of revenge, and when here and there a tormenter succumbs, crushed under a wagon wheel from the dark, only one thing is left to be done—revenge for the outrages and sins committed under the direction of the heartless monsters, the industrial capitalists. And brute force—industrial self-help—is the weapon, but it will not change the conditions of the masses in the mills.

What a task to get the instinct of revolt directed in channels so that the collective intelligent application of means for redress can be utilized for common good? How is

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it to be done?  
Those who know their people, their kin, their gen, and their clan, know, and they also know how light can be made to disappear darkness, how hope can be implanted in a crushed soul. Not by theories. Not the hair-splitting, the theoreticians, not the chair-bound men who accomplish it: ON THE JOB they go. THE FEW who expect no other reward but to see their class stand erect, as men! On the job they go, with their hands on them, suffer with them, and by their own action in the places of production give examples of courage, of perseverance, of manly virtues to those whose life else would be hopelessly a dull and a check on the efforts of the soldiers of the revolution to take possession of the means of life. There, where they toil, where they agitate, know how light can be made to disappear darkness, how hope can be implanted in a crushed soul. Not by theories. Not the hair-splitting, the theoreticians, not the chair-bound men who accomplish it: ON THE JOB they go. THE FEW who expect no other reward but to see their class stand erect, as men! On the job they go, with their hands on them, suffer with them, and by their own action in the places of production give examples of courage, of perseverance, of manly virtues to those whose life else would be hopelessly a dull and a check on the efforts of the soldiers of the revolution to take possession of the means of life. There, where they toil, where they agitate, know how light can be made to disappear darkness, how hope can be implanted in a crushed soul. Not by theories. Not the hair-splitting, the theoreticians, not the chair-bound men who accomplish it: ON THE JOB they go. THE FEW who expect no other reward but to see their class stand erect, as men! On the job they go, with their hands on them, suffer with them, and by their own action in the places of production give examples of courage, of perseverance, of manly virtues to those whose life else would be hopelessly a dull and a check on the efforts of the soldiers of the revolution to take possession of the means of life. There, where they toil, where they agitate, know how light can be made to disappear darkness, how hope can be implanted in a crushed soul. Not by theories. Not the hair-splitting, the theoreticians, not the chair-bound men who accomplish it: ON THE JOB they go. THE FEW who expect no other reward but to see their class stand erect, as men! On the job they go, with their hands on them, suffer with them, and by their own action in the places of production give examples of courage, of perseverance, of manly virtues to those whose life else would be hopelessly a dull and a check on the efforts of the soldiers of the revolution to take possession of the means of life.

## ANOTHER STEEL CITY

The plans providing for the construction of a large foundry plant at Trafford City, near Pittsburgh, by the Westinghouse Electric & Manufacturing Co. have been completed, and contracts are soon to be awarded. The plant will be located on 70 acres of land, recently purchased by the company, close to the foundry of the Westinghouse Machine Co. The plans now completed will call for the investment of approximately \$3,000,000 in buildings, and when the plant has been completed 3,000 men, mostly highly skilled mechanics, will be put to work.

The plant will centralize the large foundries now located at Cleveland and other places, and will be the means of working important economies. Two foundries will be built, one for small castings, which will be housed in a structure 300 feet wide and 600 feet long, with crane runways for handling the raw material and the finished products. The second structure, for large castings, will be 300 feet wide and 800 feet long and will be equipped with larger crane runways, and also equipped with 800 feet girders, and a greater capacity generally. There will also be a pattern shop and pattern storage building, 200 feet wide and 600 feet long, six stories high. The buildings will be constructed of fire proof material, steel, brick and stone, with concrete floors, and a structural work. There will be large ship-like structural work for railroad service. The entire trackage system in the plant will be built by the International Railroad Co., which is controlled by the Westinghouse Electric Manufacturing Co., and this road will give independent and direct connection between the new plant and the big works at East Pittsburgh, and will be used exclusively by the electric works.

## CAUSES OF THE STEEL MILLS

Brief History of Craft Unions in Relation to the Development of the Industry.

### BY OBSERVER.

It was a wily scheme that has made slavery of the processes of iron and steel making. True, some will say that changes have come about as a natural evolutionary development, particularly traceable to the constant improvement of machinery and processes. Such changes do account for a great deal, but not for all that we see in the iron and steel industry to-day.

Machinery and improved processes do largely account for the enormous output and comparatively low prices for products. And some elements in steel production can be classed as natural results in the development of modern, scientific and up to date methods. But these changes are purely economic in character. One would suppose that in their operations and influences upon the lives of the steel workers, these changes would be vastly beneficial rather than injurious.

Now, I am not going to ignorantly jump to the foolish conclusion that the conditions of the steel workers have deteriorated by reason of the introduction of improved machinery and processes. But I do say that these improvements in the processes of production ought to show a corresponding improvement in the working conditions and social life of the steel workers. It does not show such improvements, but very much the reverse.

John Stuart Mill said: "It is doubtful if all the mechanical devices yet invented have lightened the day's toil of a single individual." And a moment's consideration showed this to be a most astounding fact. Has the power-driven sewing machine made a strong, healthy, happy woman of the seamstress? Or is she still the same pitiful victim that Tom Hood wept over in "The Song of the Shirt"? Or, what then means the recent strife of the cloak and shirtwaist makers?

Has the spinning jenny and the Northrop loom made the textile workers' life a holiday, or the reverse? Has the coal-mining machine and the trunk locomotive exempted the coal miner from the death traps of the mine? Or has it ended the robbery of the screen, the plucke stone, the docking boss and the mean shack? I trust not.

Or has the enormous modern blast furnace, the Bessemer and open hearth processes, the three high rolls, the roller tables, and the continuous process done ought to make life better for the iron and steel workers? Nay, verily, they have not. And to-day, in many respects, the iron and steel workers are as badly off as was sturdy old Vulcan as he roasted his lump of ore in the brazier.

In this special edition of Solidarity, addressed to iron and steel workers, we want to remind you that it is vastly to your interests to investigate your own conditions and the causes thereof.

No, it is not chargeable to improvements; there must be perversion of these improvements some place. It cannot all be charged to politics, politicians, and the political state. Because, after all it said, the workers are but very little affected by the legislation that is passed in Washington or Harrisburg. The workers' condition is an economic condition that is only affected by the legislation passed in the bosses' office. He carries his legislative chamber under his hat and his will is his law. He is an economic autocrat.

Machinery does not think, does not plan and scheme and thirst for more profits. Machinery does not say to one man, "Go," and he goeth; or to another, "Come," and he cometh. It requires an economic master to do that.

Investigate. Walk around the machine and you will find the "office." The office is the legislative chamber; the court that interests the worker. In the office you will find the BOSS, or his representative. Now, a boss is not an ornament or an accident. He is there to own the machinery and the output thereof; that is his business. The fact of his ownership causes the perversion of the machinery and the enslavement of the worker. This is the whole fact in a nutshell. Not in all national law, history included, can there be found a more complete illustration of the same or any man, shall be the wage slave of a certain few other men. Think it over.

### Inefficient, Indirect Action.

The first notable organization of iron workers in the United States was the "Sons of Vulcan." This organization was originally exclusively composed of puddlers or iron boilers and their helpers. I am not sure of the date of its organization, but

it was sometime during the war of 1861-'65.

The Sons of Vulcan waged some notable struggles with the bosses, particularly in 1868, when they struck for seven months to force the price for puddling up to \$0 a ton. Finally they "won" out in this struggle and the scale was signed for \$9, after which the bosses coolly told them that they "could just as easily have had \$13." And, in passing, I wish to remark that from that day to this I have never known the craft union to have sense and pluck enough to ask a wage that conditions would afford.

In 1872 the "finishers" organized the "Finishers' Union." This was a very aristocratic organization, composed of rollers, heaters and a few more who considered themselves themselves the elite of the iron and steel workers. The common herd was barred out and could by no means qualify for membership in either organization.

However, puddling was purely a hand labor process, and is so at the present time. Hence the puddlers passed rules restricting the weight that they would undertake to make in a "heat" or day's work. Similarly, the finishers also had some restrictions, but they always were eaten with an itching to get around their own restrictions, and what this itching finally led to will appear later on. A few years later the Amalgamation was formed by puddlers and finishers all joining in one organization. Apparently this was a step toward solidarity, but even at that early period the senseless principles of craft unionism began to breed the germs of disunion within the Amalgamated Association. Immediately the finishers found themselves a majority within the Amalgamated organization, and straightway proceeded to use the puddlers as cart horses and beasts of burden. The finishers, regarding themselves as aristocrats, like all aristocrats, considered it their religious duty to exploit somebody. In this instance the puddlers happened to be the convenient victims. And from that day to this the puddlers have stood as buffers between the finishers and the bosses. In all deals between the bosses and the A. A., the finishers could never vote the puddlers into the raw end of the deal.

At present the puddlers have withdrawn from the A. A. and have reorganized the Sons of Vulcan, only to find themselves regularly scabbed upon by the A. A. The same being one more illustration of how the assassin concepts of the craft union work out in every day application.

Again, fighting over the question of "jurisdiction," the A. A. locked horns with the K. of L., to the very serious injury of both. Their tactics consisted in scabbing on each other at every opportunity. As a result they are now both out of business, thus helping to clear the ground for one big union.

The discovery of the soft steel process was an important factor tending to the development of steel-making machinery, notably the roller table process and others, while the use of gas instead of the immense modern heating furnace. All the while machinery was more and more eliminating the skilled workers, that is, the finishers from the steel industry, and wages per ton were constantly going lower and lower, and in order to still make large daily wages the finishers constantly worked for an even heavier daily output. Puddling is still the same, but the labor process it always was. So the strenuous life of the steel workers now live is not all chargeable to the bosses, but largely to their own account; and this will apply to union and non-union alike. Did space permit, I might show much more in the history of the steel workers that has contributed to bring about the "steel hell."

### The Contract Scale.

When the Amalgamated Association that first formed the United States was divided into five districts, for the reason that previous to its formation different wages had been paid for the same work in different parts of the country. For instance, puddling cast of the Alleghenies had been paid \$1 per ton less than west of the mountains. And puddling in Wheeling was 25 cents per ton higher than in Pittsburg. But all mills in any one district were under the same scale.

As we now review the history of the A. A., it is clear that this was all the sub-division that the trade could ever stand, and perhaps too much, and should never have been allowed to go any farther. As to why the A. A. continued these differences in wages to allow is one of the "mysteries of craft unionism." It was signed for the whole district, and not a wheel turned within that district until the scale was signed. Consequently, in those days a strike meant something. And frequently after a district scale was signed, the A. A. would use it to drive other districts into signing also.

However, in course of time, during special strikes, the district rule has been gradually worn away. Since then we have had company scales, then scales

for different plants owned by the same company; then department scales; then the bosses go the whole fool proceeding one better and flash the "individual scale," that is, the open shop. The open shop is the logical outcome of such a deteriorating and unwise policy.

In summing up this history of "contracts" as practiced by the A. A., it is now clear that its "sales" and "contracts" have been the vehicles for connivance, seditious trickery and reascaling of the meanest type. As far as organized labor is concerned, the lesson is plain: In unionism the days of parliamentarianism are over, and the time for direct action is here.

Similarly, the stale practice of delegating powers to official labor fakirs stinks to heaven. ONE BIG UNION and direct action within the shop indicates the tactics of present and future unionism.

The A. A. began the 12 hour day, as I will show in my next chapter. Also the markish sympathy that was wasted on the "heroes" of Homestead.

## "PROFIT SHARING" HUMBUG

Of the United States Steel Corporation Exposed by our Wall St. Correspondent.

By John D.

The profit-sharing plan which was inaugurated a few years ago by the United States Steel Corporation, and which was supplemented on April 14th last by relief plan which made voluntary provision for the aid of injured workmen, whether by temporary disability, permanent injuries or death, is working splendidly for the United States Steel Corporation. The company in its last annual report for the year ended Dec. 31, 1909, showed employees to the number of 195,000, divided as follows:

Manufacturing properties, 138,803  
Coal and coke properties, 31,867  
Iron ore properties, 15,077  
Transportation properties, 17,104  
Miscellaneous properties, 2,387

This is an increase of 30,289 employees, as compared with 1908.

The total annual salaries and wages for 1909 were \$151,065,395, an increase over the previous year of \$31,152,565.

During the past eight years the Steel Corporation's expenditures were more than \$276,000,000 for additions, extensions, etc., which has been charged to capital, of which about \$150,000,000 is on account of the same plant which is about finished at Gary, Ind.

Ever since its incorporation in 1901 the stockholders have received on the preferred stock \$27,000,000, and the common stockholders have received in the same period about \$84,000,000. All this time the bondholders, of which Andrew Carnegie is the largest, have received 5 per cent interest on a total outstanding of \$616,842,054.

The Steel Corporation now has a capacity of about 4,000,000 tons a day as compared with a capacity of about 1,000 tons a day at the time of its inception. It now controls about 70 per cent of the total business of the country, and it expects to add to this when its several plants now in process of construction are completed.

The company has produced in the past eight years nearly 500,000,000 tons of ore, besides a production of Portland cement to the amount of 17,000,000 barrels. It manufactured coke to the amount of 86,504,216 tons, and mined coal aggregating 15,884,584 tons during the same period.

Today the company claims a net profit of \$8 a ton, as compared with \$2.90 per ton by its largest independent competitor. This is the widest range that the company has ever been known to have had, and that with its immense ore deposits it is now able to underbid and undersell everything in the field against it, because of the fact that it has the most marvelous labor saving devices, and in its Gary, Ind., plant the greatest thing of its kind, according to steel men, in the civilized world.

All of the above should be studied very carefully by the workers in the steel mills because of the great stress laid by the officials of the trust headed by George W. Perkins, a partner in the firm of J. P. Morgan & Co., and a prominent member of the "Crisis" committee, for the splendid provisions made by the trust in its much heralded profit sharing or relief plan, as they prefer to call it. It will be remembered that when the plan was announced last April, Judge Elbert H. Gary, chairman of the Steel Corporation, said: "The U. S. Steel Corporation has established a fund of \$8,000,000 for pension purposes, which, by agreement with Andrew Carnegie, will be consolidated with the \$5,000,000 fund heretofore created by him, and which will be known as the 'U. S. Steel and Carnegie Pension Fund' and the net proceeds set aside for the benefit of the employees of all subsidiary companies of the U. S. Steel Corporation." The plan stated that "the total number of 425,000 employees, of which the record number in the corporation's history would have their salaries increased to an amount of \$9,000,000, and which they announced was in keeping with a similar plan previously adopted by the International Harvester Co., another Morgan concern. The plan stated that during temporary disability a single man would receive 75 per cent of his wages and married men 50 per cent, with an additional 5 per cent for each child under 16

## I. W. W. PREAMBLE.

The working class and the employing class have nothing in common. There can be no peace so long as hunger and want are found among millions of working people and the few, who make up the employing class, have all the good things of life.

Between these two classes a struggle must go on until the workers of the world organize as a class, take possession of the earth and the machinery of production, and abolish the wage system.

We find that the centering of the management of industries into fewer and fewer hands makes the trades unions unable to cope with the ever-growing power of the employing class. The trade unions foster a state of affairs which allows one set of workers to be pitted against another set of workers in the same industry; thereby helping defeat one another in wage wars. Moreover, the trade union aids the employing class to mislead the workers into the belief that the working class has interests in common with their employers.

These conditions can be changed and the interest of the working class upheld, only by an organization formed in such a way that all its members in any one industry, or in all industries if necessary, cease work whenever a strike or lockout is on in any department thereof, thus making an injury to one an injury to all.

Instead of the conservative motto, "A fair day's wages for a fair day's work," we must inscribe on our banner the revolutionary watchword, "Abolition of the wage system."

It is the historic mission of the working class to do away with capitalism. The army of production must be organized, not only for the every-day struggle with capitalists, but also to carry on production when capitalism shall have been overthrown. By organizing industrially we are forming the structure of the new society within the shell of the old.

Knowing, therefore, that such an organization is absolutely necessary for our emancipation we unite under the following constitution.

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and 3 per cent for each year of service above five years. For permanent injuries lump sum payments are provided. These are based upon the extent to which each injury interferes with employment and upon the annual earnings of the men injured. In case of death by accident, the widows and children of employees will receive one and one-half year's wages with an additional 10 per cent for each child under 16 and 3 per cent for each year of service of the deceased over five years.

The company stated that it has been paying for some years over \$1,000,000 a year on account of accidents, etc., and the plan they announced last April, they then stated, would only be in operation for one year, beginning with May 1, 1910, and expiring on the same date in 1911, when it is optional with the directors as to whether they shall continue the scheme. It will be noticed that there are no provisions made for the failure of the employees to continue to work for the corporation in order to come in under the head of profit sharing and relief plan on account of unemployment. This is very important, particularly when the present year is taken into consideration. The quarterly statement made public Friday last shows orders for new business to have amounted to a mark for the year and the immediate outlook to be anything but satisfactory to the trade. The corporation, in keeping with the slump in business has laid off thousands of men during the past two months, and should the depression continue much longer Wall Street estimates fully 50 per cent of the steel workers will be let out and those of them who have bought stock on the installment plan will find themselves in a very precarious position

to keep up their payments for shares which the corporation has allotted to them. Besides that, J. P. Morgan personally has always fought the labor organizations, and three years ago he predicted that by the end of 1910 there would not be an avowed trade unionist in any of the corporation's mills, and he then said that the profit-sharing and relief plan, which the directors were then contemplating, will be used as a substitute for the organized crafts which the industry employs. It will be noticed in this connection that every time the stock that was allotted to the employees which, after all, amounted to few shares per individual and which, in many instances, did not exceed \$20 a year, which included bonuses and dividend payments, was more than offset three times over by a slump on the New York Stock Exchange in the quotations for the shares. In other words, while they may have received in dividends and bonuses funds to the above amount, to-day those out of work, and who have no means to withstand an unpropitious period, could not realize anything like what they last paid for the shares, since the price of the common stock has declined in the past year from 94 7/8 to 61 1/8 and the preferred stock has slumped in the same period from 120 to 87 1/2.

It is reported that on Dec. 31 there were 21,458 employees who had purchased preferred stock under offers made by the corporation and of which but few held their shares outright. Ever since the corporation hit upon the idea of wiping out the spirit of revolt in the ranks of the workers the dividends which these em-

(Continued on Page Four.)

# WHO ARE THE INVENTORS

### The Capitalists or Wage Earners? An Answer.

The claim is made that wealth is produced by inventors and other able persons belonging to the capitalist class; and not by the working class, as is generally contended. How untrue this claim may be seen from the following Boston dispatch of Sept. 26th, taken from the New York Times of Sept. 27th:

"Sued by the United Shoe Machinery Co. for a breach of contract, Euclid J. La Chapelle of Beverly, an inventor of shoe machinery in the company's employ, has virtually turned complainant by setting up the claim that the company is violating the Sherman anti-trust law.

"La Chapelle claims that under contract he entered the company's employ in January, 1906, for a term of ten years at a salary of \$20 a week, the contract requiring that he turn over to the company all his inventions and patents during that term. After seven years, he secured a patent for a lasting machine, which he refused to assign to the company unless he were paid \$50,000. Thereupon the company brought suit to have the contract enforced.

"In his answer to the complaint, La Chapelle says he signed the contract under an agreement that he should be paid a fair market value for his inventions; that this promise was not to be incorporated in the contract, but that he trusted the company more than ten years ago. He declares that he obtained the services of nearly every inventor of shoe machinery under similar contracts, and that this has created a monopoly in restraint of trade in violation of the anti-trust law.

"In his motion before the Superior Court La Chapelle asked that President Winslow of the United Company be required to answer a number of questions relating to the company's business and its relations with shoe manufacturers.

"Judge Pierce denied the motion. It is understood that La Chapelle will carry the point to the Massachusetts Supreme Court."

It may be said, in conclusion, that the employment of inventors under such conditions as those described by La Chapelle is general. Invention is exploited on a wage basis, just as unskilled labor is; and it is from exploited wage labor, consequently, that inventions and the wealth created by them are derived. To attempt to make the capitalists appear anything else than parasites is to attempt to distort the truth.

THE COMMENTATOR.

### GLIMPSE OF CONDITIONS.

Continued From Page One.

stop work to even cover the body. The bodies lay exposed until the close of the day's work, as the mammoth wheels of capital must continue to grind out profit for the owners.

Foremen who run "boarding houses" insist that men working in their departments board with them, and they also expect presents from time to time, or the job ceases to be open and room is made for someone who is more docile.

Where the pooling system is in vogue there is an additional rakeoff for the foreman. The coal and iron police serve as efficient watch dogs for the employer in doing spy duty at every meeting held by the slaves and also guard against any attempt to even think organization within the works. The writer handed out a few circulars, calling for a mass meeting, to several slaves in one of these mills and one of these coal and iron police, a burly negro, made the men throw them away before they could enter the gate.

The men are not allowed to either read or hear anything that pertains to organization, under penalty of dismissal, if found out. Under these conditions the men are kept in a state of abject servility, and the discontent grows within the minds of the men, which being without any plan of intelligent action, is apt to result soon in useless violence on the part of the oppressed and downtrodden. If a hell on earth breaks loose in this district, the capitalists will have no one to blame but themselves, as being a "sinner" under full pressure without any escape for the steam is bound to end in an explosion.

Lack of space will not enable the writer to describe the entire lot of outrages perpetrated upon the slaves in this district. But he believes that he has shown enough to prove that organization of the I. W. W. type is sorely needed in this district. The only hope for these slaves lies in the Industrial Organization and every I. W. W. agitator should make it his business to locate in this district, secure work and devote his spare time to the task of rousing these slaves to action.

Difficulties will confront them, but if they persist in their efforts they must be victorious in the end.

Remember, that the iron and steel industry is one of the basic industries of this

# SOLIDARITY

### I. W. W. MANIFESTO

(Continued From Page One.)

spirit of working class solidarity do not permeate the organization.

The A. A., under the excuse of a "sacred contract," permitted the employes of "so-called trust" mills to remain at work filling the orders of the trust.

Some years ago the leading strikers of the trust, after having used the A. A. and other craft unions of the steel industry and their high officers like Shaffer and others to effect its huge organization, and with the open and enthusiastic aid of the A. A., having secured necessary Federal legislation to build a tariff wall of protection for its products, decided to smash all organizations of workers in its mills.

When the unholy combination between labor leaders and capitalists of industry was formed by the organization of the National Civic Federation, of which Andy Carnegie, Charles M. Schwab of Homestead strike breaking fame, George W. Perkins and other well known exploiters of steel mill workers, became prominent members, together with Gompers, Mitchell, Shaffer, McAdelle and others, we see the A. A. in official convention give its endorsement to this unholy alliance. On the eve of the war" being declared by the A. A. upon the steel trust, McAdelle, president of the A. A., was not ashamed to hold it at the same table with George W. Perkins, Andrew Carnegie and other of the steel trust at a Civic Federation capitalist and Judas of labor, banquet held in the Waldorf-Astoria hotel in New York.

While the steel trust was fast boasting out other organizations, the A. A. fasted low and longer it was never to be driven out of the departments its members controlled; that it was too powerful, and that in fact the trust was good to it, etc. We others believed, and ran the gauntlet of the masters and their organizations were being broken up, the A. A. stood by its "sacred contract" and let the masters do as they wished with the workers less skilled. But finally the turn for it to be driven out came and the necessary power to block the efforts of the trust was wanting. The same tactics of dividing the workers into craft unions defeated the workers at South Bethlehem in the recent strike.

We have reached a point where the condition of centralization of the steel industry demands new instruments and bases of defense and attack on our part.

Modern machinery every day displaces hundreds of skilled workers and reduces us to a common level of servitude. The army of unskilled and unemployed is ever on the increase. These conditions force upon us the absolute necessity, irrespective of trades, nationalities, or anything else, except that we work in the same shop and industry, to unite in ONE BIG UNION.

Not a union that will permit the shameful scene of time to be before us, and the rest remaining at work, even working alongside of scabs; but a union whose guiding star of conduct is: "An injury to one is an injury to all," and when one department strikes we all strike together with it.

A union that will not sign contracts with the masters. A union that will not permit workers from entering its ranks because of high initiation fees, but a union with low fees, making it possible for all to become members.

Such an union is the Industrial Workers of the World, under whose banner we are organized.

In the past and even at present, the native steel workers of this district have been misled by the belief that the great mass of foreign workers imported by the corporations are the cause of low wages. And every time these workers revolt the agents of the corporations are set at work proclaiming that "it is only a Hunky strike," and that "it is the duty of the American workers to remain at work." The experience of the past year amply prove, however, that these foreign workers, once aroused to their duty and interests, are valiant soldiers in the army of labor striving for a better and nobler place in life.

The workers of a half dozen nationalities, speaking a dozen or more languages, but all united in one big union and imbued with the spirit of solidarity, were sufficient to bring the President Steel Co. Co. to its knees last year in the memorable battle at McKees Rocks, all the power and intrigues of the masters notwithstanding.

No organization in this district was able to bring sufficient pressure to bear upon the huge corporation of Jones & Laughlin to raise wages. But with the agitation carried on by the District Council of the I. W. W. last winter, sufficient to make the above institution grant a 6 per cent increase in wages to all day workers in the Solo and South Side plants. The company claims that the increase was voluntary, but those who know the devious tricks of this institution understand it is only a subterfuge by which the company gains its ends.

Remember, that the iron and steel industry of workers; it daily exploits the

country and as long as these men are slaves you will be slaves.

to carry on a fight against an enemy that is organized to move with precision against us all.

Labor divided is forever at the mercy of the masters. Labor united is master of its own destiny. Which shall it be? That is for you to answer. We ask you to be men. Act energetically. Agitate the idea of one big union among all your shop mates. Arouse yourself and them to action. Certainly the time for action against the common enemy has come.

If you want more information or advice write to the District Organizers of the I. W. W., Joseph J. Etor, 343 Olivia St., McKees Rocks, Pa. All communications will be considered and kept strictly confidential.

Subscribe for our official paper, "Solidarity," and keep yourself informed. Get others to do likewise.

We may call your attention that from now on it is planned to carry on an energetic campaign of agitation and organization among the workers of this district.

If you want to require more energetic speakers and organizers in various languages to reach the vast mass of workers, but a fund to pay for halls, literature, etc., is absolutely necessary, and with this we appeal to all the workers in favor of our mission, whether individual workers or organizations in accord with our principles, to show their real interests in this work by donating such sums as you can afford. Every bit will help. This appeal is being published in various languages and will be sent to organizations we have the addresses of, but we hope that members of organizations who may not receive this appeal officially will bring it to their attention for favorable action.

Some of them, fellow workers of the metal and machinery industry, all together, if we really make up our minds and all hearts are resolved, the hope of an eight-hour day for all can be recalled by the first of May.

Make this the talk of the shop. Pass the word around to every one you can find. With earnest devotion to the cause of labor, we are yours sincerely,  
EXECUTIVE BOARD INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT COUNCIL INDUSTRIAL WORKERS OF THE WORLD,  
Per Joseph J. Etor,  
District Organizer.

### WHAT IS THE STEEL TRUST?

(Continued From Page One.)

the Jones & Laughlin company (independent) at Allequippa, Pa., have been referred back to the steel trust, which is now in New Castle, whose consent this becomes necessary before the men are hired.

### Profits and Dividends.

Now let us take a glance at the financial records, the profits and dividends of this trust octopus, this monster with limbs of steel.

The total amount of outstanding capital stock of the U. S. Steel Corporation on December 31, 1908, was \$808,585,000. On this capital stock in the same year dividends were paid out to stockholders in the sum of \$35,835,727.

These dividends represent the actual net surplus value created by the steel workers and stolen from them by parasitic stockholders in one year. That is, after paying all expenses, ordinary and extraordinary, such as operating expenses (including wages), repairs and maintenance, sinking funds, interest on bonds, extraordinary replacement-funds, "profit-sharing" funds, etc., all of whose value was created by the steel workers, the stockholders find themselves with the net little sum of 35 million dollars to the clear.

During the seven and three quarters' years of their existence from April 1901 to December 1908, the stockholders cleaned up in dividends the enormous sum of \$297,740,307. The corporation started in 1901 with a capital surplus of \$1,000,000.

The aggregate net profits of the steel trust in the same period of 7 3/4 years were \$569,098,017, leaving a surplus over dividends of \$271,357,710 to be used in acquiring new properties and extending the arms of the octopus throughout the metal industry.

All of this enormous sum in profits was wrung from the sweat and blood of less than 200,000 workers that make up the published list of steel trust employes. Accompanying this "property" of the blood-sucking trust is a most appalling record of misery, degradation, overwork, injury and death by accidents on the side of the workers, unequalled by any war history.

### Wages and Hours of Labor.

The Seventh Annual Report of the steel trust gives the average number of employes in the service of all companies during the year 1908 as 165,000. The total annual "salaries and wages" to these employes aggregated \$120,510,829, which gives a yearly average to each worker of \$729.

Remember, this aggregate sum for wages includes all SALARIES paid to superintendents, foremen, and other better paid employes, as well as the higher wages paid to certain divisions of "skilled" workers. The average was \$729. How many of the vast majority of unskilled and miserably sweated slaves of the steel trust actual power 40 cent up to 1908? The Corporation's Report does not state. Let the slaves answer for themselves, and at the same time take a look above at the net profits and dividends to big-bellied stockholders, which these workers created

by their labor, along with their wages.

Contrast these wages with those received by the puddler and the finisher before the days of the trust. The men of brawn and skill, netting from \$5 to \$15 a day, have been replaced by \$1.50 unskilled workers. The stoking iron of the puddler and the tools of the finisher have been replaced by the blast furnace, giant rollers and other automatic machines that make up the equipment of a modern steel mill.

The twelve hour work day predominates in the steel mills. A comparatively small number of skilled workers enjoy an eight hour day. In sheet and tinplate mills the eight hour day is more common.

**Labor Organization.**

Read what "Observer" says elsewhere on the history of craft unions in the steel industry. J. P. Morgan some years ago made the threat that the trust would smash the then existing unions of its workers. The threat has been made good. For years the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers has been declining in numbers and power, and the recent steel strike has struck back that organization to the cleaners. The Seamen's Union on the Great Lakes has been crushed by the steel trust. The Western Federation of Miners has been driven from the Mesaba Iron Range.

Behold the steel trust—monarch of all it surveys!

By the development of machine power; by the concentration of the industry in the hands of the trust; by the removal of craft divisions based on "skill" among the workers, an organization is prepared for the complete industrial organization of the steel trust workers. One union of all employes in mines, mills and all other steel workmanship will put the trust up against the greatest power of the age.

The I. W. W. is on the job. Its slogans are: "The workers are the workers," and "The World for the Workers."

### "PROFIT-SHARING" HUMBUG.

(Continued From Page Three.)

employes who had subscribed to the stock has had a very checked career. For over two years the common stock did not receive a cent on the investment and the shares slumped badly in that interval. The workers who subscribed for the stock should always remember that the directors did not allow them to in any way either to subscribe or participate in the 5 per cent bond, which are, after all, the only safe investments in the corporation, since it is a first lien on every stock owned by the corporation. In Wall street common stock, as a rule, is given away as a bonus to the promoters and holders of the corporation, and in case of a receivership being appointed, the common stockholders are only an equity equal to a third mortgage on a house or any other piece of property, and which, if these schemes by big institutions, very rarely commands more than 25 per cent on the dollar.

Wall street is watching very carefully the so-called profit-sharing schemes of the Steel Corporation, and there is no doubt that it will be applied pretty generally throughout the country wherever labor organizations have a footing, since with O. K. give these schemes by "labor leaders" a way has been found whereby the workers can be lulled into a belief that they are partners in a concern such as the Steel Corporation under the guise of a relief plan, slashes wages, intensifies toil, increases deaths by accident toll, holds in virtual pawn, ties hand and foot the every aspirant of the workers in the steel business by dangling before them two gold bricks; the first, that should they subscribe to the stock it would practically guarantee them steady work and second, that the second dividend, which brings them within reach of a higher standard of living.

The workers in that industry, during the past year, which the profit-sharing and relief plan have been in existence, have seen the cost of living jump up by leaps and bounds to where, to day, it is anywhere from 40 to 50 per cent higher than since the inception of the gigantic steel corporation, and from 20 to 30 per cent above quotations prevailing since the birth of the so-called profit-sharing and relief plan inaugurated by the trust. Taken from any angle, the steel workers are getting the worst of the bargain, because when earnings of the concern are taken into account as well as the imports that have been added on their backs, the stockholders, aside from the few that figure as such in the ranks of the workers, and the directors are decidedly better off than ever before; since these sops have thoroughly subdued the working class attached to the mills and robbed them of their greatest weapon, to-wit—organization.

Wall street has a standing joke ever since the Steel Trust started its profit sharing plan, when it says that to-day you don't need a club a workingman. Neither is he needed to buy one when he becomes rebellious over conditions—just hand him a sugar-coated pill, label it "profit sharing" and the job is done. The more further in the financial district that we see the trust, the more we see a man a dividend of 5 per cent a year and then be able to demand of him an increase in his power, 40 cent up to his cost of living 100 per cent, and then, when he dies, give his widow one and one-half year's wages with a trifle of a bonus for each of his remaining heirs. It will be noticed this simply on a percentage basis

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Who wouldn't share profits with the workman on such a basis? The whole capitalist system is alive with men anxious to share on a similar basis as that proven to have worked so successfully to the benefit of the stockholders and to the detriment of the workers who have made the Steel Trust what it is to-day, and whose future depends absolutely on that class and its activity for its welfare.

## Stirton Arrested in Detroit

Just as we go to press a report comes from Michigan that Fellow Worker A. M. Stirton was arrested for attempting to hold a street meeting in Detroit, and is now in jail at that place. We are expecting a detailed account of the affair for next week.

The letter follows:

Pontiac, Mich., Oct. 5.

Solidarity:

You may have received word from my brother ere this, saying that the "powers that be" have him in custody in Detroit. Things are pretty stormy there, and the outlook is for a long fight. Spokane tactics will doubtless be employed, and I think there is metal enough in the Detroit revolutionists to carry it out.

Yours truly,  
J. W. STIRTON.

Local 178, Oakland, Calif., would like to hear from M. J. Arnett, late financial secretary and C. B. Evans. Please communicate with the recording secretary, C. J. Fen.

Order St. John's leaflet, "Political Parties and the I. W. W." It is an eye-opener. Price 20 cents a hundred; \$1.50 a thousand. Box 692, New Castle, Pa.

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